

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS STATE 108701

FOR GENEVA FOR US DEL REVCON

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 108701 ACTION BUENOS AIRES

CANBERRA VIENNA BRASILIA RIO DE JANEIRO OTTAWA

TAIPEI HELSINKI ATHENS NEW DELHI TEHRAN DUBLI

N TEL

AVIV ROME TOKYO SEOUL OSLO MANILA LISBON PRETORIA

MADRID STOCKHOLM BERN BANGKOK LONDON CAIRO IAEA VIENNA

EC BRUSSELS BONN COPENHAGEN LUXEMBOURG PARIS BRUSSELS

9 MAY.

QUOTE

UNCLAS STATE 108701

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, AR

SUBJECT: NRC DECISION ON PLUTONIUM RECYCLE IN LIGHT
WATER REACTORS

1. ON MAY 8, THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION (NRC)
ISSUED ANNOUNCEMENT UNDER WHICH PUBLIC COMMENT WILL
BE SOLICITED ON EVALUATING THE SAFEGUARDS ISSUE
RELATED TO PLUTONIUM RECYCLE IN LIGHT WATER REACTORS
UNCLASSIFIED

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BEFORE MAKING FINAL DECISION AS TO WHETHER SUCH RE-
CYCLE SHOULD BE PERMITTED IN U.S. ON A WIDE SCALE.

2. KEY PORTIONS OF ANNOUNCEMENT FOLLOW (ENTIRE ANNOUNCE-

MENT WILL BE FURNISHED SUBSEQUENTLY):

"THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION SAID TODAY THAT BEFORE MAKING A DECISION AS TO WHETHER RECYCLED PLUTONIUM MAY BE USED WIDELY IN FUEL FOR LIGHT WATER NUCLEAR REACTORS IT WILL ASK FOR PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION FOR VALUATING THE SAFEGUARDS ISSUE.

"IN THIS CONNECTION, THE NRC SAID THAT ITS PROVISIONAL VIEW, SUBJECT TO CONSIDERATION OF COMMENTS WHICH MAY BE RECEIVED, IS THAT IN ORDER TO MEET THE

REQUIREMENTS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT A COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVE SAFEGUARDS PROGRAMS SHOULD BE PREPARED, PUBLISHED AND PUBLICLY CONSIDERED BEFORE THE COMMISSION MAKES ITS DECISION.

"THE COMMISSION SAID IT ALSO BELIEVES THAT IN LIGHT OF THE VARIETY OF FACTUAL SITUATIONS AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS THAT MAY BE PRESENTED--AS WELL AS THE RIGHT TO AND NEED FOR APPROPRIATE PARTICIPATION IN THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS BY PARTIES TO THE INDIVIDUAL PROCEEDINGS--THE MATTER OF DEFERRAL OF FUTURE LICENSING ACTIONS WHICH ARE RELATED TO THE WIDE-SCALE USE OF MIXED OXIDE (PLUTONIUM WITH URANIUM) FUELS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE INDIVIDUAL LICENSING PROCEEDINGS. IT IS THE COMMISSION'S PROVISIONAL VIEW THAT THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR RESOLVING THE DEFERRAL ISSUE IN SUCH PROCEEDINGS:

"(1) THERE SHOULD BE NO ADDITIONAL LICENSES GRANTED FOR USE OF MIXED OXIDE FUEL IN LIGHT WATER NUCLEAR POWER REACTORS EXCEPT FOR EXPERIMENTAL PURPOSES.

"(2) WITH RESPECT TO LIGHT WATER NUCLEAR POWER REACTOR FUEL CYCLE ACTIVITIES (ACTIVITIES OTHER THAN UNCLASSIFIED

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NUCLEAR POWER REACTOR CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION) WHICH DEPEND FOR THEIR JUSTIFICATION ON WIDE-SCALE USE OF MIXED OXIDE FUEL IN LIGHT WATER NUCLEAR POWER REACTORS, THERE SHOULD BE NO ADDITIONAL LICENSES GRANTED WHICH WOULD FORECLOSE FUTURE SAFEGUARDS OPTIONS OR RESULT IN UNNECESSARY "GRANDFATHERING." THIS WOULD NOT PRECLUDE THE GRANTING OF LICENSES FOR EXPERIMENTAL AND/OR TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY PURPOSES.

"IF THE PROVISIONAL VIEW IS ADOPTED, A FINAL COMMISSION DECISION ON PLUTONIUM RECYCLE COULD BE REACHED BY EARLY TO MID-1978, DEPENDING UPON THE TIMING AND OUTCOME OF VARIOUS SAFEGUARDS STUDIES

UNDERWAY AND THE TIME REQUIRED TO COMPLETE ANY NECESSARY PUBLIC PROCEEDINGS. THIS WOULD BE ONLY SLIGHTLY LATER THAN THE TIME PRESENTLY ESTIMATED FOR REACHING THE FINAL SAFEGUARDS DECISION UNDER THE APPROACH PROPOSED BY THE ATOMIC PROCEEDINGS ON THE STAFF WHEN ADJUSTED FOR PUBLIC PROCEEDINGS ON THE SAFEGUARDS ASPECTS."

3. COMMENTS ARE REQUESTED WITHIN THIRTY DAYS FROM MAY 8.

4. STATE/ERDA ARE NOW ANALYZING POSSIBLE IMPACT OF NRC ACTION ON FOREIGN NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAMS, PARTICULARLY AS IT RELATES TO THOSE ENTITIES HAVING ENRICHMENT SERVICES CONTRACTS WITH ERDA WHICH WILL BE TERMINATED IF U.S. GENERIC APPROVAL OF PLUTONIUM RECYCLE IS NOT RPT NOT GIVEN BY JUNE 30, 1976. RESULTS OF THIS ANALYSIS WILL BE PROVIDED SOONEST. KISSINGER UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

UNCLASSIFIED

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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